

Discussion Questions for LIKE MAGIC

1. Do you identify or empathize with Gian? How strong is your connection? Explain.
2. Were you brought into Gian's journey and can you relate to his feelings? What surprised you along the way?
3. How well do the poems fit into the story? Which poem resonates most and why?
4. How did the practice of meditation help Gian? Do you use meditation in your life?
5. How are the dreams connected to Gian's journey? How would you interpret the dream of Gian holding the three babies, one with an opening at the top of her head? What about the dream of the dragon and flying over the South China Sea?
6. The lit candle on the empty chair in John Singer Sargent's painting "El Jaleo" represents the memory, perhaps even the spirit, of a beloved person who has died. Do you agree with this interpretation? Why or why not?
7. The lit candle, also used at the end of the story, can be thought of as a kind of portal between the living and the dead. In the story, what other portals connect the living with the dead?
8. If you wanted to read more about the story, would you prefer a prequel from the perspective of Luca and his top secret job with the government, or a sequel from the perspective of Leo and his work to make sense of the equation? Or more about another character like Mei?
9. What insights did the journal entries add to the story? Do you think that journals tell a different story from reality?
10. How does Gian's grief evolve? How does it change the close connection with his brother Luca?

